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Appl. No. 10/734,334

US20020369

Amdt. dated May 10, 2007

Reply to Examiner's phone call of May 10, 2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 (previously presented) An automatic household dishwasher for washing utensils in accordance with a user selected dishwashing cycle, comprising:
 - a wash tub having top, bottom, side and rear walls, with the walls collectively forming an open-faced wash chamber for receiving utensils to be washed;
 - a moveably mounted door movable between an opened position for providing access to the wash chamber, and a closed position for selectively closing the open-face of the wash chamber during the dishwashing cycle;
 - a bulk wash aid dispenser mounted to an interior surface of the door for storing a supply of solid wash aid greater than that needed for a single dishwashing cycle;
 - a fluid conduit in the door and in fluid communication with a spray nozzle, the spray nozzle mounted near a bottom wall of the bulk wash aid dispenser;
 - a grid for supporting the supply of solid wash aid above the spray nozzle; and
 - wherein a fluid is delivered from the spray nozzle, through the grid and onto the solid wash aid for dissolving an amount of wash aid required for the single dishwashing cycle.

- 2 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 1 wherein the bulk wash aid dispenser dispenses a variable amount of wash aid depending on the dishwashing cycle selected by the user.

- 3 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 2 wherein the bulk wash aid dispenser dispenses the variable amount of wash aid in multiple charges of a predetermined amount.

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4 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 3 wherein the multiple charges are dispensed at different times throughout the dishwashing cycle.

5 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 4 and further comprising a controller for executing the selected dishwashing cycle and controlling the dispensing of the multiple charges in response to the selected dishwashing cycle.

6 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 5 wherein the controller comprises a user interface through which a user can select one of several dishwashing cycles.

7 (canceled)

8 (canceled)

9 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 1 wherein the bulk wash aid dispenser dispenses multiple wash aids.

10. (previously presented) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 9 wherein at least one of the multiple wash aids is a liquid.

11 (previously presented) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 9 wherein the multiple wash aids include a solid wash aid and a liquid wash aid.

12 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 1 wherein the bulk wash aid dispenser comprises a solid wash aid chamber for storing a solid wash aid.

13 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 12 wherein the solid wash aid chamber is keyed to receive a predetermined solid wash aid.

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14 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 13 wherein the solid wash aid chamber has an insert opening of a predetermined shape to form the keyed chamber.

15 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 14 wherein the insert opening is one of a tri-lobe and a D-shape configuration.

16 (canceled)

17 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 1 wherein the bulk wash aid dispenser comprises a liquid wash aid area for storing a liquid wash aid.

18 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 17 wherein the liquid wash aid area comprises a replaceable cartridge containing the liquid wash aid.

19 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 18 wherein the liquid wash aid area comprises a pump fluidly connected to the replaceable cartridge for pumping the liquid wash aid from the replaceable cartridge into the wash chamber.

20 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 1 wherein the bulk wash aid dispenser comprises a housing mounted to an inner surface of the door and defining a bulk wash aid storage area, and a dispenser door moveably mounted to the housing for selectively closing the bulk wash aid storage area.

21 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 20 and further comprising a bulk wash aid carrier mounted to an inner surface of the dispenser door and defining a chamber for receiving a bulk supply of wash aid.

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22 (previously presented) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 21 wherein the spray nozzle is located within the housing to direct liquid spray into the chamber to effect the dispensing of the bulk wash aid stored therein.

23 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 21 wherein the carrier comprises an insert opening of a predetermined shape to permit the insertion of a bulk supply of wash aid having a configuration corresponding to the predetermined shape of the insert opening.

24 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 23 wherein the insert opening is one of a tri-lobe and a D-shape configuration.

25 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 24 wherein the bulk wash aid carrier comprises a second insert opening having a second predetermined shape.

26 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 23 and further comprising a cartridge containing a bulk supply of liquid wash aid, with the cartridge being placed within the bulk wash aid storage area.

27 (original) The automatic household dishwasher according to claim 26 and further comprising a pump fluidly coupled to the cartridge for dispensing the liquid wash aid from the cartridge.

28 (previously presented) A bulk wash aid dispenser for an automatic household dishwasher for washing utensils in accordance with a user selected dishwashing cycle, comprising:

a housing defining a bulk wash aid storage area;

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a dispenser door moveably mounted to the housing moveable between an opened position and a closed position for selectively closing the bulk wash aid storage area; and

a bulk wash aid carrier mounted to an inner surface of the dispenser door and defining a chamber having a grid for supporting a bulk supply of solid wash aid, the chamber being accessible when the dispenser door is in the open position to permit the filling of the chamber with the solid wash aid;

wherein the bulk wash aid dispenser stores a supply of wash aid greater than that needed for a single dishwashing cycle in the chamber; and

a spray nozzle located within the housing to direct liquid spray into the chamber to effect the dispensing of an amount of wash aid required for the single dishwashing cycle.

29 (canceled)

30 (original) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim 28 wherein the bulk wash aid carrier comprises an insert opening of a predetermined shape to permit the insertion of a bulk supply of wash aid having a configuration corresponding to the predetermined shape of the insert opening.

31 (original) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim 30 wherein the insert opening is one of a tri-lobe or a D-shape configuration.

~~32-32~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim 30 wherein the bulk wash aid carrier comprises a second insert opening having a second predetermined shape.

~~34-33~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim 28 and further comprising a cartridge containing a bulk supply of liquid wash aid, with the cartridge being placed within the bulk wash aid storage area.

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~~35-34~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim ~~34-33~~ and further comprising a pump fluidly coupled to the cartridge for dispensing the liquid wash aid from the cartridge.

~~36-35~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim ~~35-34~~ wherein the bulk storage area is divided into a solid wash aid area and a liquid wash aid area.

~~37-36~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim ~~36-35~~ wherein the spray nozzle located in the solid wash aid area and the pump is located in the liquid wash aid area.

~~38-37~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim ~~36-35~~ wherein the dispenser door comprises a first door element for selectively covering the solid wash aid area and a second door element for selectively covering the liquid wash aid area.

~~39-38~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim 28 and further comprising a cartridge containing a bulk supply of liquid wash aid, with the cartridge being placed within the bulk wash aid storage area.

~~40-39~~ (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim ~~39-38~~ and further comprising a pump fluidly coupled to the cartridge for dispensing the liquid wash aid from the cartridge.

~~41-40~~ (canceled/currently amended)

~~42-41~~ (canceled/currently amended)

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43-42 (canceled/currently amended)

44-43 (canceled/currently amended)

45-44 (canceled/currently amended)

46-45 (canceled/currently amended)

47-46 (canceled/currently amended)

48-47 (canceled/currently amended)

49-48 (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim 28, wherein when the dispenser door is in the closed position, the grid and the solid wash aid is positioned above the spray nozzle.

50-49 (currently amended) The bulk wash aid dispenser according to claim 49-48, wherein the liquid spray is directed through the grid and onto the solid wash aid to dissolve the amount of wash aid required for the single dishwashing cycle.